

## Message Text

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67

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:WSSHEPARD/FDR

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:CBROWN

EUR/EE:NANDREWS

H:KBJENKINS

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P 192340Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 207312

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CVIS,PFOR,HU

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES: MESTERHAZY CASE

REF: A. BUDAPEST 2551; B. STATE 189474

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ARMITAGE

1. MESTERHAZY CASE (REFA) CAUSES US REAL CONCERN IN TERMS TRADE REFORM ACT. CONGRESSMAN VANIK'S OFFICE NOW DIRECTLY CONCERNED. ALSO, INITIAL REACTION OF SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE STAFFER TO REF A REPORT WAS THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD ON BASIS MESTERHAZY CASE, MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH VIEW TOWARDS AMENDING TRADE REFORM ACT TO DELETE MFN FOR HUNGARY UNTIL MESTERHAZY CASE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. (FYI: GIVEN FACT THAT FINANCE COMMITTEE LAST WEEK VOTED AMENDMENT TO TRADE REFORM ACT CONDITIONING MFN AND EXIM CREDITS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON SETTLEMENT IN FULL OF OUT-STANDING CLAIMS, WE CANNOT DISMISS POSSIBILITY OF MESTER-HAZY CASE HAVING SIMILAR EFFECT. END FYI)

2. ON SEPTEMBER 18, ANDREWS CALLED IN HUNGARIAN DCM KOVACS AND RAISED THE MESTERHAZY CASE (SEPTEL) STRESSING VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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ADVERSE EFFECTS THIS CASE COULD HAVE ON US-HUNGARIAN

RELATIONS IF NOT QUICKLY AND QUIETLY RESOLVED BY GRANTING  
ZSOLT MESTERHAZY AND FAMILY EXIT PAPERS. BELIEVE YOU

SHOULD FOLLOW UP THIS APPROACH PERSONALLY WITH NAGY. GOH  
MUST BE MADE AWARE FULLY AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL OF  
SERIOUSNESS OF CASE, AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN ITS EARLY  
RESOLUTION, BEFORE IT BECOMES A PUBLIC ISSUE, QUITE  
POSSIBLY LINKED WITH TRADE REFORM ACT.

3. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO EARLY  
REPLY REF B, WHICH REQUESTED FULL UPDATE ON STATUS OF  
DIVIDED FAMILIES. YOUR MESTERHAZY REPORT RATHER IMPLIES  
A PICTURE OF HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION THAT IS LESS OPTIMISTIC  
THAN WE HAD SUPPOSED. WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT VARKONYI IS  
GENERALLY CORRECT IN STATING THAT GOH HAS ATTEMPTED TO  
REUNITE DIVIDED FAMILIES INVOLVING PARENTLESS CHILDREN  
HUSBAND AND WIFE, OR PARENTS. IF THERE ARE, AS VARKONYI  
SAYS "THOUSANDS OF CASES" SIMILAR TO MESTERHAZY CASE  
(PARA 3 REF A) DIVIDED FAMILIES SITUATION IS FAR WORSE  
THAN A LIST OF A FEW DOZEN CASES WOULD SHOW. WOULD  
APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1974  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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